



THE NATIONAL
CENTER FOR
**RURAL
HEALTH**
PROFESSIONS

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Mr. Kenneth C. Robbins
President
Illinois Hospital Association
1151 East Warrenville Road
P.O. Box 3015
Naperville, IL 60566

Dear Mr. Robbins:

I am writing to offer the support and commitment of the National Center for Rural Health Professions and the University of Illinois College of Medicine to the efforts outlined in the application that will be submitted to the Federal Communications Commission to request funds from the Rural Health Care Pilot Program. These funds are important to our organization as we develop distance-learning opportunities to and connect with health care providers and hospitals in rural and remote areas of Illinois to offer on-line consultation and services. These funds will enable the capability to share new knowledge and techniques with rural providers and delivery of services in the areas of psychiatry, radiology, emergency medicine, neurology and dermatology. Without this support, rural practitioners, hospitals, and communities remain limited and isolated in continuing education and health care delivery activities.

We are aware that many Illinois hospitals and health care providers have embraced tele-health and other health information technologies. However, there has not been a centrally coordinated effort, as proposed here, to link individual hospitals, medical and other health professional education institutions, and medical specialty consultants to most effectively capitalize on the benefits of the technologies. This coordination and collaboration will enhance access to and improve outcomes of health care for Illinois' rural and underserved residents. The increasing national focus on electronic health information and its immediate and secure availability for patient care offers another level of technology that complements current tele-health applications, especially remote health care services and distance learning.

Funding for this initiative represents a major opportunity for multiple institutions in Illinois to collaboratively address health and health care in rural Illinois. We look forward to the opportunity to participate in this important project.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Kasser

Michael Glasser, Ph.D.
Director and Associate Dean
National Center for Rural Health Professions
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford